

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the text beginning on page 39, line 5 as follows:

ArcA is a global regulator universally existing in *E. coli* and other relative species.

Using a bacterium belonging to the genus *Pantoea*, *Pantoea ananatis* AJ13601, which is a relative to *E. coli*, *arcA* gene of *Pantoea ananatis* was obtained based on a known nucleotide sequence of *E. coli arcA*. The strain AJ13601 was obtained as follows (refer to EP 1 078 989 A2). The strain AJ13355 was isolated from soil in Iwata-shi, Shizuoka, Japan as a strain which can grow under a low pH in a medium containing L-glutamic acid and carbon source. From the strain AJ13355, the strain SC17 was selected as a less mucus producing mutant which shows good growth. The strain SC17sucA, in which α -ketoglutarate dehydrogenase (\square KGDH) gene is disrupted, was constructed from the strain SC17. To the strain SC17sucA, the plasmid pSTVCB containing a citrate synthase gene (*gltA*) derived from *Brevibacterium lactofermentum* (pSTVCB), and the plasmid RSFCPG containing *gltA*, phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase gene (*ppc*) and glutamate dehydrogenase gene (*gdhA*) derived from *E. coli* were introduced. From the obtained transformants, the strain AJ13601 was selected as a strain which has an increased resistance to high concentration of L-glutamic acid under a low pH condition. The strain AJ13601 has been deposited at National Institute of Bioscience and Human-Technology, Agency of Industrial Science and Technology (presently, the independent administrative corporation, International Patent Organism Depositary, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, Chuo Dai-6, 1-1 Higashi 1-Chome, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken, Japan, postal code: 305-5466) on August 18, 1999, under accession number of FERM P-17516, and then, the deposit was converted into international deposit under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty on ~~June~~ July 6, 2000 and received accession number of FERM BP-7207 (refer to EP 1 078 989 A2).

Please amend the text beginning on page 48, line 26 as follows:

The strain G106S Δ arcA was transformed with pSTVCB. ~~Obtained transformant G106S Δ arcA/pSTVCB is equivalent to~~ Obtained transformant G106S Δ arcA/pSTVCB is equivalent to *arcA* gene-disrupted strain of the above-mentioned AJ13601 (AJ13601 Δ arcA). The strain G106S Δ arcA/pSTVCB and the strain AJ13601 as a control were cultured, and their L-glutamic acid production amounts were measured, respectively. The media, culture methods and analysis method for the measurement are shown below.